

HORNINGSHAM

NEWS

ISSUE 228

December 2019





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EDITORIAL

Starting with our cover photo, there is a strong Christmas theme to most of our articles this month. Both the Church on Christmas Day and the Chapel on Sunday 15th offer you the chance to sing carols. The School also has a Carol Service at 12.30 on Friday 20th. It also has two performances of its Christmas Play on Friday 13th as well as its popular Christmas Market on Saturday 14th in the Hall. The Luncheon Club, the Welcome Club and the Lion Cubs also mention their plans for Christmas. Even “From the Papers” has a Christmas theme. Here you can read Lord Bath’s Mother’s romanticised account of Christmas at Longleat in 1951 which sounds like Downton Abbey’s Christmas Special.

But it’s not just Christmas. We have an account of the successful Bonfire Night, a mouth-watering recipe, seasonal gardening notes, the doings at Mill Farm even the announcement of the date of next year’s Horningsham Fayre. John Whatley gives the amazing rainfall total for October in Horningsham – you probably thought it was wet but he tells us it was nearly three times wetter than last year!

Finally we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and hope that you survive without a *Horningsham News* as the next one will be in February.

Tim Hill

Please send your contributions for the next edition by Wednesday 15th January 2020

Email: horningshamnews@hotmail.co.uk

Editorial Team

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Facebook

We now have 706 “Page Follows” – well over three times the number of printed copies!

Printed by Parish Magazine Printing (01288 341617) printers of community magazines.

CHURCH NEWS



Wiltshire has seen its first flakes of snow; I wonder if we will have a white Christmas? The church will follow its usual pattern for December and January. We will celebrate Christmas Day with Common Worship at 10.30am which this year will be taken by Rev Gay Maynard from Corsley. Unfortunately, there will be no musical accompaniment, so the congregation will need to be in good voice! There will be hot mince pies and champagne afterwards. Do come and join us on this special day.

In January the Bathampton Morris Men will come on Plough Sunday. This has become an annual tradition at Horningsham and we are very grateful to them for continuing to share this event with us. It is a very jolly start to the New Year and attracts a large congregation. We hope to see you there.

Helen Taylor

Church Dates

Christmas Day Common Worship 10.30am

12th January Plough Sunday 11.15am (note change of time)

CHRISTMAS DAY

**St John the Baptist Church
Horningsham at 10.30am**

Holy Communion and Carols

Everyone Welcome!

*Mulled wine and
Mince Pies to follow!*



Dear Friends,

I'm going to be really honest: I wish I didn't have to write this letter. We have a general election looming, and the country is in chaos. Poverty levels are rising. Across the world daily, hourly, desperate people risk their lives in an attempt to escape brutally oppressive and unjust regimes. An environmental crisis of apocalyptic proportions is being played out in bush fires across the world that are out of control, not to mention flooding, and loss of natural habitat that has devastating consequences for us all. I quote: 'Insect population decline affects ecosystems, other animal populations, and humanity. ... A 2019 global review warned that, if not mitigated by decisive action, the decline would have a catastrophic impact on the planet's ecosystems.'



And, it's Christmas. I feel I should come with something profound and equally feel wholly unqualified to do so. All I can do is offer a few thoughts and hope that someone somewhere finds them helpful.

Writing the above I'm struck by the thought that the world has always been a place of great beauty but also of great pain. If we think about the time in which that first Christmas was played out Jesus was born in a country under Roman occupation; a brutal and oppressive regime if ever there was one. Mary was an underage teenage mother probably booted out of her home for bringing appalling shame on her family, she was lucky that she was not stoned to death for her behaviour. The Holy Family were refugees: no home, no money, finding their way in the dark to that horrible, dirty stable where Jesus was born.

A few years ago I wrote an alternative version of the Christmas story in which I had Mary giving birth to Jesus on the floor of the loo in Burger King in amongst filthy bits of tissue, cigarette butts and other such inviting detritus. I remember telling the story to the Year 6 class at school and their expressions of horror and disgust at such a scenario. It's so much easier to water it all down isn't it, and have Jesus born in in a nice cosy stable with fresh, sweet smelling hay and clean well behaved animals. But to do so is to miss the point entirely. In all the mess that is the reality of human existence what is the constant that we need to hold onto? It's love of course. The Christmas story is not a sweet fairy tale to bring out once a year with the decorations, it's a shocking, amazing, gutsy picture of love blazing forth in the darkest of places. Into the dirty, grimy, shameful reality of what it means to be human love is born. In our beautiful, broken, often sad old world we are all finding our way in the dark to where love still shines, often hidden yes, but not extinguished.

So, having said all that, enjoy your Christmas. Remember that love is the greatest gift God gives us and that we can give each other; treasure it, live it, and give thanks for it.

Love and prayers,

Pauline Reid revpauline@btinternet.co.uk

HORNINGSHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Our next Sunday Service is 8th December at 10.00 am

Our Carol Service will be held on Sunday 15th December at 3.00 pm

The Collection will be in aid of the local Air Ambulance

Best Christmas wishes to all!

Carol Cox horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk



WELCOME CLUB

On Tuesday 22nd October the Welcome Club held their last meeting of the season. Although we had fewer people come, which was a shame, everyone seemed to enjoy it. Our first stop for coffee was at Lacock. Some people had not been there before and being such a sunny morning, all the old houses and streets looked beautiful. We stopped there for an hour and a quarter and everyone thought it a lovely place. Then we proceeded to Cirencester. We arrived just after 12 noon and left at 3.30pm so people had plenty of time to wander around the town, and it being dry and sunny made it even better. Although we had comments before the outing that there was not a lot at Cirencester to see, everyone enjoyed the place and could have spent longer there. On the way home we did the raffle getting home just after 5.30pm so most people could get home before it went dark.

Do not forget Christmas Dinner at the Bell Inn, Weyhill on Tuesday December 3rd.

Tom, Lesley and Pearl wish you all a Merry Christmas.

HORNINGSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Horningsham Parish Council met on Thursday 21st November at the Village Hall.

Present: Councillors, Tim Hill, Stephen Crossman, Matt Simpson, Simon Millar, Michael Trollope, Fran Chris, and John Radley.

Apologies: Dermot FitzGerald, Gerard Brierley, Ken Windess and Charlotte Hilleary

In attendance: The Parish Clerk Mrs. Sarah Jeffries MILCM

Planning

Planning Applications

Council supported both of the following tree orders.

Application Ref: 19/10199/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Conservation Area

Proposal: - T1 - Mature Beech - Significant decay from various *Ganoderma australe* brackets located on trunk at 0.5m, and decay reaching from 0.5m to approximately 3m in height. Request to reduce the height of the tree to 6m

T2 - Mature Lime - Request to re-pollard to previous pruning points At: 144 West Common, Horningsham.

T3 - Mature Ash trees roadside, remove the lower dead branches of roadside.

At Church Street

Application Ref: 19/10200/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Conservation Area

Proposal: - T1 - Mature Goat Willow - Historically pollarded, now with elongated limbs, requires a re-pollard to approximately 2m in height.

At: 36 Newbury, Horningsham, BA12 7LG

The following applications were all considered between meetings and were supported.

Application Ref: 19/09108/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - OD T1 - Oak tree - fell

T2 - Prunus tree - fell

T3 - Birch tree - reduce main branch by 1.5m to suitable growth points

T4 - Tulip tree - fell

T5 - Beech tree - crown lift to 5.2m to suitable growth points

At: 197-198, Pottle Street, HORNINGSHAM, BA12 7LX

Application Ref: 19/09109/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - OD 8 Metre reduction to western red cedar to suitable growth points shape canopy so that current middle, shorter stems is the highest point, bring the side in accordingly.

At:211, Pottle Street, HORNINGSHAM, BA12 7LX

Application Ref: 19/09786/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - T1 - 2 Limes, to be repollarded following cyclical management

T2 - 1 Cherry crown lift over roadside to 5.2m

T3 - Beech - Crown lift over roadside and track to 5.2m

T4 - Group of Willow and Sycamore, cut to ground level roadside trees and crown lift up to 5.2m all others

At: Land Opposite, 150 West Common, Horningsham, BA12 7LS

Application Ref: 19/09787/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - T1 - Veteran Ash in significant decline, reduce by 4.5m in height using natural fracture pruning techniques to reduce the likelihood of failure on storage facility beneath the tree.

At: Village Hall Playing Field, Water Lane, Horningsham, BA12 7LL

Application Ref: 19/09173/FUL

Application for Full Planning

Proposal: - Provision of seasonal winter installations, temporary workshops and worker accommodation

At: Longleat Safari and Adventure Park, The Estate Office, Longleat, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7NW

Application Ref: 19/09562/FUL

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - T1 Goat willow fell T2 Crab Apple Fell

At: 44 – 45 Prospect House Newbury Horningsham Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7LG

Application Ref: 19/09550/FUL

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - T1 Goat willow fell

At: 123 Scotland Horningsham Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7NH

Application Ref: 19/09549/FUL

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal: - all ornamental Conifer Trees Fell

Willow sets Coppice to ground level

Apple Tree Overall prune by 1.5m

All hedges reduce height to 1.5m

At: 103 Anchor Barton Horningsham Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7LR

Highways Parish Steward

It was noted that the Parish Steward has cleared the gully in Church Lane. His offer to clear around both Bus Shelters was gratefully accepted.

Vegetation has grown over the 30mph signage and needs clearing.

Councillor Stephen Crossman will investigate a drainage issue with Wessex Water which is causing water from his field to go onto the road. Councillor Tim Hill to be informed of the outcome so he can report the matter to Highways if required.

The Estate's hedge-cutting has left a lot of debris on the road. The Clerk was instructed to ask Highways if the road can be swept.

Grounds Contract 2020

Councillors considered the two tenders for grass cutting that had been received by the closing date. Neither of the bidders has previously held the Horningsham contract. Council decided to award the contract to the lower bidder who also offered to contract for a three year period.

Play Area Seat

The positioning of the seat inside the Play Area has not yet been completed as Councillor Ken Windess is unwell.

Longleat's Balloon Festival 2019

A reply had been received from Warminster Rural Policing Team about the severe traffic congestion caused by the event. However it did not appear to offer any solution to the problem. Councillors discussed various options for reducing the problem in future years and the Chairman agreed to contact the Estate about the matter.

Remembrance Service at the War Memorial

This year's service was well attended by 57 people including a pleasing number of newer residents. It was suggested that the singing at future services could be improved if there was a musical accompaniment. The Chairman agreed to investigate the options.

Chapel Signage

It was agreed that a new sign would be purchased to replace the one on the Common that had been damaged and mysteriously disappeared. The Clerk would add it to the next Agenda so that the design, materials, and wording could be approved and she can then seek the necessary three quotations.

Horningsham Signage

As agreed at the last meeting, Councillors were provided with a list of 30 possible street and place names and asked to indicate the 10 that they considered should be in the first round in 2020. The Chairman agreed to collate the responses and report back at the next meeting so that an order could be placed for them.

Items for the next meeting

Litter pick date for 2020

Dates for Council Meetings May 2020 – May 2021

Chapel signage

Street signage

The next meeting of Horningsham Parish Council will be on Thursday 9th January at 7.30 in the Village Hall when all are welcome to attend.



FAYRE NEWS

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2020 Village Fayre will be held on Sunday 14th June.

This is Horningsham's biggest fund raiser every year and all the profit is divided between the various village organisations.

We need more help with the planning and organisation of the Fayre. If you have any new ideas for arena events or different attractions please get in touch with our Chairman Steve Crossman (844333).

We would be delighted to see you at our next Planning meeting which is on Wednesday 4th December, 7.0pm at Mill Farm.

Lesley Trollope

LUNCHEON CLUB



Phew, after 4 weeks away we are back home at Horningsham Village Hall! Our thanks to Longleat and to Maiden Bradley Hall for accommodating us during the Strictly Dancing Rehearsals. Special thanks to our long suffering cooks who coped so well with different kitchens and their facilities.

We have said 'goodbye' to Pat Hooper one of our long standing members who died recently. Pat and her partner John Gooding (a former Horningsham resident) travelled from Trowbridge each week to meet old friends and enjoy a meal. We shall miss Pat and send our love and condolences to John and their families.

For the first time we have decided to have a Christmas Meal at the Royal Oak Corsley for the Luncheon Club. This means that all the cooks and helpers can sit down with members and enjoy the meal together without any work involved. Our last Luncheon Club meal at Horningsham will be on 12th December and we will start back again on Thursday 9th January 2020. For anyone new to the village, we meet at Horningsham Hall every Thursday for lunch at 12.30. The cost is £3 for a dinner and pudding plus tea or coffee. We would be pleased to see any new members, please come along and give it a try.

From everyone at Luncheon Club we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Lesley Trollope & Margaret Long

Mill Farm Chronicles October – November 2019

Well there's good news and there's bad news. The good news is that at our last TB test we went clear, the bad news is that even though the inconclusive cow from the first test went clear, which meant that it didn't and never has had TB, we still have to have another clear test in 60 days. The 60 days took us up to Christmas Eve so it was obviously not gonna happen then so our next test is on January 13th. I'm not sure if that's a good date or not, I suppose it depends on how superstitious you are. All the cows are in for the winter now so fingers crossed they stay safe and healthy and we will have a good start to 2020.

Thelma and Louise, our pigs, are in their winter quarters and are on a calorie controlled diet because they have got too fat over their free range summer which is not good for their overall health and wellbeing. Rosie, Lucky and Poppy the donkeys are coming in this week. Much as the donkeys prefer to be outside, the ground is so water-logged that they can't stay out now without it potentially giving them bad feet, although they do have a shelter and hard standing. They are off on holiday soon, to the Lakeside Garden centre at Crockerton for the Christmas period so go and have a chat with them from Dec 7th.

Bed and breakfast is all or nothing at the moment, nobody during the week but chock-a-block at weekends with people going to see the Festival of Lights which are apparently the best yet. Amy and I are hoping to take Ivy and Theo later this week as long as the weather is good.



The filming of the Christmas special of Animal Park has finished and we did have some of the Animal production team stay for B&B and they were lovely. Jack has been filmed a few times so we are hoping that his bits survive the edits and he makes it on to the TV this Christmas. I shall be one proud Mum if he does.

This past month has been quiet for us on the social front. It was my birthday last week and I can't believe it's been a year since I celebrated my 60th with a big party at the Hall. This year was much more low key. We had the grandchildren staying for the weekend while Amy and Guy went to a friend's wedding, so on my birthday we took them home and had a lovely roast lunch at Amy's cooked by Guy. The evening was spent in front of the fire watching really good TV, punctuated with a visit from Mark and Jo. I'm really loving His Dark Material and War of The Worlds at the moment. On Monday I met the ladies of my family for post birthday coffee and cake at The Hillbrush Café in Mere.

Christmas at Mill Farm is well on track with the cards written and ready to post later this week and all the presents bought. I just need to wrap the presents and sort the food. I'm probably being over-optimistic but I really think I've nailed a stress free build up to Christmas this year or . . . I've forgotten something major! I'll let you know how it went next year.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Margaret Crossman

PARSONAGE FARM RAINFALL

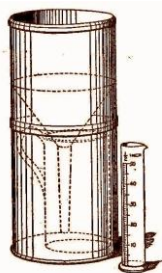


FIG. 151.—Standard rain-gauge.

October started with a very heavy storm giving us 1.08 of an inch then it was dull and damp. On the 5th we were shrouded in fog in the morning, making it feel most eerie. Finally on the 8th it was fine, just in time for my blood TB re-test. 11 had to be re-tested, luckily all were okay, but I'm still shut up from moving my store cattle. Then rain yet again, really heavy at times, so by the 14th we have had 4.40 inches. We then had a small window of fair weather, just enough time for us farmers to try and get our winter wheat drilled. It certainly went in, but let's hope it grows in the sodden ground and hopefully will not rot. The weather changed again on the 23rd to foggy, damp and showery.

Then on the 24th/25th we had that WIND, it blew my Mountain Ash down in the garden with a real crash, blocking the drive. It then settled to a frost and cooler weather for the rest of the month.

Total for October: 6.96 inches compared to 1.81 in October 2018.

John Whatley



Horningsham Primary School

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Email: admin@horningsham.wilts.sch.uk

Website: www.horningsham.schnet.org

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Magical Learning

Woodpeckers Class had a truly magical trip to Warner Brothers Studio as part of their topic 'A little bit of magic'. They had great fun handling props from the Harry Potter movies, riding broomsticks on green screens and exploring the sets of Hogwarts. It really brought the topic to life!



Lest we forget

We held our own Remembrance service on Armistice Day at the War Memorial in the village. It was very moving and the children all showed great respect, with Ben reading a poem he had written about poppies and has had published in 'Once upon a dream'. A group sang 'O Valiant Hearts' in harmony following our two minute silence and the Last Post.



Out of this World Topic

As part of their topic on Space, Owls class have explored 'We the Curious' in Bristol; carrying out experiments and enjoying the Planetarium. They had a visit from Sirius Astronomy and found out the science behind how astronauts get into space and return home safely as well as why spacesuits are so important. It was a fantastic session with some exciting experiments! Owls were so fortunate as well to have the opportunity to Skype with an engineer working for NASA. He answered lots of their questions about satellites, planets and whether or not life is out there!



Christmas at Horningsham School

Christmas Play Friday 13th December 10.30am and 1.30pm

As a result of the General Election, we are unable to provide an evening performance of our Christmas Play this year. However, we are going to have two performances on Friday 13th December during the day. Due to the large numbers of people wanting to come and limited space, reservations will be required to secure a seat. Initially we will offer two seats to each of our families and then make available remaining seats to everyone in the community. **Please contact the school by email or phone Monday 9th Dec – Thursday 12th Dec if you would like to book 1 or 2 seats.** You can just turn up, but please be aware that if all the seats are taken, you may not be able to attend.

Christmas Market

Village Hall Saturday 14th December 11-2pm

FOHPS have organised an amazing market this year – our raffle prizes are quite incredible so either get your tickets on the day or pop into school to buy some booklets from the Little Office (open daily each morning). We hope you will join us for lots of festive fun and spread the word to friends and family in the local area.

Carol Service

St John the Baptist Church, 12.30pm Friday 20th December – all welcome to join us!



Horningsham Christmas Market

Saturday 14 December
11am - 2pm

Horningsham Village Hall

*Festive stalls by local artisans
Hands-on kids craft stalls
Santa's Grotto • Carol Singers
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MONTHLY RECIPE

“Jaded by months of tasteless food and using memory to remind herself of times when food was a joy instead of a necessity by which to survive, she mechanically and methodically scanned the cookery section of her local library. Her eyes fell on the words ‘Long nights and Log Fires’. It stirred in her a feeling, primeval and earthy, that kindled a deeply buried memory of a time when food was seasonal”.

If you are into ‘hygge, lagom, ikigai or ubuntu this book is for you, one thing among many that it does for you is banish cheimatophobia (the fear of winter).

Smoked Haddock and White Bean soup



Ingredients

450g undyed smoked haddock, skinned
50g butter
400g can cannellini beans, drained
270ml whipping cream
Snipped chives, to serve

2 large onions, thinly sliced
500ml fresh chicken or fish stock
2 good pinches saffron

Method

1. Heat the butter in a non-stick pan. Add the onions and fry very gently for 15 minutes until soft but not coloured. Stir in the beans, stock, cream and a good pinch of saffron, then cover and cook gently for 5 minutes.
2. Add the haddock fillets, then cover and cook 5-8 minutes more until the fish is just cooked and flakes when tested.
3. Take out one-third of the haddock and set aside, then blitz the soup in the pan with a stick blender, or blend in a food processor until smooth. For a velvety texture, rub through a sieve. Tip into a pan or a freezer container, then stir in the remaining pinch of saffron and flake in the fish. Alternatively flake all of the fish fillet for a chunkier soup. If freezing, cover the surface of the soup with cling film before putting the lid on the container. To defrost, thaw in the fridge overnight.

To serve, reheat gently in a pan, ladle into bowls and scatter with the snipped chives. Serve with chunks of warm soda bread. Sit down and give thanks.

Sackfuls of Christmas Wishes

✿To One and All✿

Jayne Glover

THEN & NOW



1975



This month we are at the Longleat Forestry yard. 44 years separate our photos and, while the shed is largely the same, the photos vividly illustrate the change in the commercial activity at the yard. In the 1970s all of the yards were part of Longleat Forestry and now most are occupied by Batsford Timber much of whose timber is imported. The office now has moved into part of the shed whereas it was previously in the bungalow from which Francis Ford operated for so many years.

The most obvious change is in the products. In the 1970s there was large scale production of the creosoted timber that fills the photo. This was treated in the 'pickling tank' that was later destroyed in a fire. Nowadays, it is firewood that is the main product – some 2,000 tonnes per year, all from Longleat's own forests. Customers are encouraged to visit the yard and choose the logs they want from the various bays in the long shed. Also prominent in our second photo is the weighbridge – customers' cars are weighed before loading logs and then again afterwards to determine the cost. The addition of kiln dried logs to the range on offer is part of the new enterprise. Instead of a pickling tank there are now two kilns, former shipping containers, in which to dry the hardwood logs, the smoke from the chimney is visible in our picture, as are the baskets in which the wood is dried.



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Horningsham Women's Group

Our November meeting anticipated Christmas with wreath making.

Members brought along a selection of greenery, pheasant feathers with freshly cut willow. We set about having a creatively social evening, sustained by food and drink with a Christmassy theme.

This was our last formal W.I. meeting before emerging as a Horningsham women's group in the New Year.





Bonfire Night

Remember, Remember . . .

Once again we were fortunate to dodge the November gales and welcome a good crowd to our traditional Bonfire Night on 5th November.



Possibly our biggest fire yet was kindly built by Rick Gunning and his WRC team as well as a major contribution from the Forestry Department. After such a large amount of rain they did well to get it going – amazing what a few gallons of fuel will do! Our thanks to Rick and Jim McConkie.

Meanwhile, a steady queue at the food stall kept Angus and Charlotte Hilleary, James Osborne and Bruce Martin on their toes as the hot dogs, hot chocolates and mulled cider flowed.

A brief but lively firework display brought proceedings to a close before the next storm rolled in. Thanks to Bill White and Geoff Lodge from the Cricket Club for lighting the squibs.





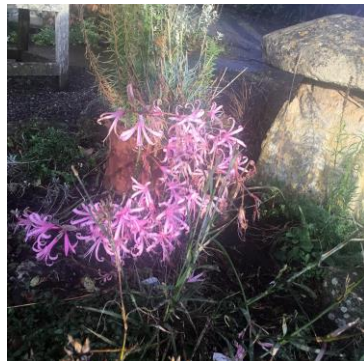
We hope everyone enjoyed the evening. Thanks to your support the Hall raised over three hundred pounds to go towards further improvements at the Hall including the rebuilding of the back veranda roof.

See you next year!

Angus Hilleary

Notes From a Horningsham Garden

December, with Christmas looming, means the focus has to be on finishing the last of the autumn harvest and storing it away. That has resulted in 3 jars of green tomato chutney, 5 jars of apple chutney, 5 jars of medlar jelly and 1 of quince jelly there is also a large jar of sloe gin maturing under the kitchen table and 56 bottles of apple juice in the cellar.



The nerines are still looking good though

Now it's time to think of winter evergreens for decoration. There are still masses of berries on the holly, cotoneasters and ivy, so adding variegated box, winter jasmine, rosemary and mistletoe, all growing in the garden, makes a quick and easy decoration for the wreath I made at the W.I.



Just a few more jobs to get on with before Christmas - sowing broad bean seeds ready to eat next June/July and potting up a few more spring bulbs bought half-price as an end of season offer. Then just lots of sweeping paths to keep the mud at bay, clearing drains and guttering, cutting back trees and shrubs tidying beds of old foliage and keeping an eye on tender plants in the polytunnel and greenhouse.

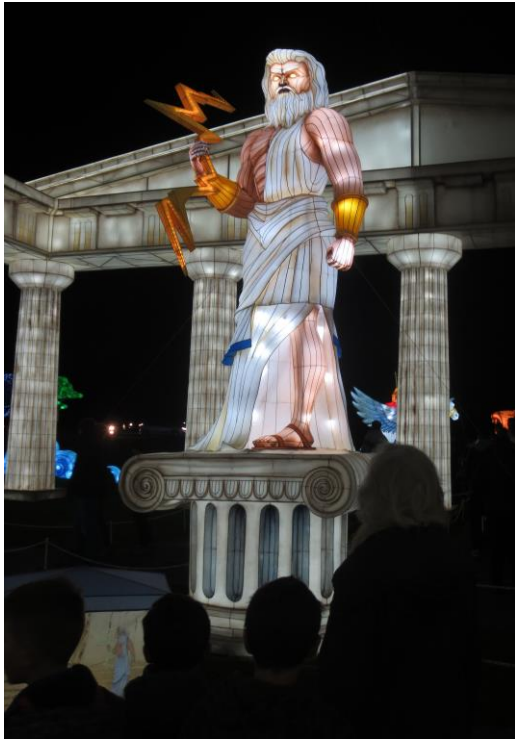
Carole Hill

Longleat Festival of Light

Bigger than ever before, this year's Festival of Light which Ceawlin and Emma opened on 8th November and runs until 5th January has the theme of "Myths & Legends". It includes more than 3,000 lanterns, crafted using 50,000 LED lights and 30,000 metres of silk.

The Festival of Light continues to be more and more popular each year. Not only has the lantern route been extended this year to encompass more of the park, but the addition of the exciting projection display on the front of Longleat House, light tunnel and opportunity for visitors to paint their own lanterns using light adds to the overall experience.





MAIDEN BRADLEY HALL



December 7th: Pub Night 6-10pm

We plan to hold a pub night to fill the gap regarding the closing/renovation of The Somerset Arms. If the 7th is successful we will run this either monthly or fortnightly. Local beer, cider, wine & soft drinks available alongside a bit of craic.

December 16th: BINGO - doors open 7.30 for 8 O'clock eyes down

December 16th: Carols around the piano with mulled wine & mince pies.

Donations taken for Dorothy House

December 31st: New Year's Eve Party 7.30pm - 12.30am

Hot food (included in price of ticket) & Bar available.

Tickets £5 available from the shop & from Mel Thomas tel. 01985 845111

Everyone welcome

Post Office service, café and the Community Store will be available every Tuesday afternoon 1-3pm in the Hall.

Coffee Mornings & Library every Friday 10.00 - noon.

Come along for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat. Everyone welcome.

The Old Kitchen Community Store now open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Opening times: 9am – 11.30am. Please note CASH ONLY.

Lion Cubs

With half term holidays and road closures, we haven't had many chances to meet but last week we had great fun re-creating the fireworks we had seen the week before with some paint blowing.



We are now looking forward to Christmas crafts and activities, including a visit to see Father Christmas at Fairwood Lakes on December 12th and our Playgroup Christmas party at the Hall on the 19th December.

We always love to see new faces and we hope you can join us.

9.15 – 10.45 Horningsham Village Hall Thursdays during term time £1 per child

HALL NEWS



Another well supported and thoroughly enjoyed bonfire night again this year. A big thanks to Angus and everyone who, as always, do a fantastic job of organising everything.

We have Horningsham School Christmas play at the hall on Friday 13th December & their annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 14th.

We've had a great year, so many different people & groups using the Hall. We thank everyone for their continued support and hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a fabulous New Year.

Louisa Cruickshank

FROM THE PAPERS

The Sketch

Christmas Number



“CHRISTMAS AT LONGLEAT—70 YEARS AGO.”

By the Marchioness of Bath.

An extract from the 1951 romantic 4 page article appears opposite which relates some of the events of the evening of Christmas Day at Longleat.

The illustration is by Ronald Searle.

Revived and changed into their evening finery, the guests emerge like splendid butterflies and moths, and sail into the dining-room for the gastronomic delight of a seven-course dinner. The table is laid with a pink Sèvres dinner-set and decorated with poinsettias grown in the hot-houses. In the middle stands an ornate silver centre-piece depicting the death of Sir Richard Grenville, an ancestor, at the Battle of Lansdowne.

This evening the chef has excelled himself. One of the courses is a sucking-pig, cooked whole on the spit. You find that Longleat keeps a very good cellar. Dinner starts with a curious amber-coloured Château-Yquem, which is served, oddly enough, with the fish. It warms the cockles of your heart with a rich, golden flame. Champagne follows and flows like the conversation. The familiar jokes are greeted with affectionate laughter; the old become young and the young pretend to be old. To accompany the sweet course there is white wine from the Isle of Samos, a great favourite with the ladies. Dinner is rounded off with port that was laid down the year Lord Bath came of age and with the justly renowned brandy that has mellowed so gently in the Longleat cellar.

Meanwhile the upper servants are dining in great style in the steward's room. The ladies' maids and valets take the rank corresponding to their masters and mistresses and are called by their names. If, for instance, a duke is staying in the house, his valet will have the honour of sitting on the right of the housekeeper, while the maid of a duchess would be placed next to the hierarchical head, the house steward. To-night they are all in evening dress, and if any visiting servant has committed the *faux pas* of failing to bring evening clothes, he has been compelled to dine in the servants' hall.

After dinner, villagers from Horningsham, which lies at the gates of Longleat, come to sing carols to the accompaniment of hand-bells. With them is a troupe of mummers, clowning their way through a traditional local Christmas play which dates back to Elizabethan times.

On the stroke of midnight, the maids all rush out into the courtyard, which is lit by oil-lamps hung on the walls. A band has come to play there and, though the snow is falling, hatless and coatless, the maids jig around on the rough paving-stones, the snowflakes feathering their hair, melting on their apple-cheeks. The footmen, in their yellow liveries, soon join them in the dance, and some of the younger members of the gentry, who are watching from the windows above, go down and take their place among the dancers.



BUSES FROM BUS STOP AT THE COMMON

Salisbury every Tuesday **83**

Leaves Horningsham 09.35 *Holly Bush 09.37* Arrives Salisbury 10.30
Departs Salisbury 13.45 Arrives Horningsham 14.45

Trowbridge every Thursday **81**

Leaves Horningsham 10.03 *Holly Bush 10.01* Arrives Trowbridge 10.55
Departs Manvers St Trowbridge 13.10 Arrives Horningsham 14.04

Warminster every Friday **82**

Friday leaves Horningsham 09.45 *Holly Bush 09.48* Arrives Warminster 10.10
Departs Warminster Coach Station 12.20

Frome every Wednesday & Thursday

Wednesday **80** leaves Horningsham 10.06 *Holly Bush 10.01*

Departs Cork St. Car Park 12.15 and 13.45

Thursday **81** leaves Horningsham 10.03 *Holly Bush 10.01*

Departs Frome Market Place 13.50

ADVERTISING RATES

¼ page £4.00 ½ page £8.00 Full Page £16.00

These apply to the inside pages of the magazine



BLACK AND YELLOW PAGES

Black Boxes	Thursday 5 th & 19 th December Saturday 4th Thursday 16 th & 30 th January
Grey Bins	Friday 6 th & 20 th December Friday 17 th & 31 st January
Blue Bins	Friday 13 th & Monday 30th December Saturday 11th Friday 24 th January
Mobile Library	Tuesday 3 rd December Tuesday 28 th January <i>10.00 – 10.25 opposite the Hall</i>

Frome Hospital Minor Injuries		01373 454740
Community Police Officer	Vicky Howick	726818 ext 817
Wiltshire Police – non emergency		101
Neighbourhood Watch	Keith Shattock	844197
Horningsham School		844342
First Steps Nursery		844942
Village Hall Hire		07541 211732
Longleat Property Department		845535
Parish Council	Sarah Jeffries	213436
Congregational Chapel	Carol Cox	horningshamchapel@aol.co.uk
Horningsham Church Rector	Rev Pauline Reid	841290
Warminster District Link Scheme		211655
Mere Link Scheme		01747 860096
Stray or Fouling Dogs		0300 456 0100

Dates For Your Diary

- Friday 13th December 10.30 & 1.30 **School Christmas Play** at the Hall
 Saturday 14th December 11.00 – 2.00 **School Christmas Market** at the Hall
 Sunday 15th December **Chapel Carol Service** at the Chapel
 Friday 20th 12.30 **School Carol Service** at the Church
 Wednesday 25th December 10.30 **Christmas Day Service** at the Church
 Thursday 9th January 7.30 **Parish Council Meeting** at the Hall
 Sunday 12th January 11.15 **Plough Sunday** at the Church



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FRI 11.45AM - 1.45PM
SAT 11.45AM - 1.45PM**

EVENINGS

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